

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS23570**

The purpose of this legislation is to improve public health and safety and reduce damages associated with digging near underground facilities by the creation of a system of self-regulation and education through a Damage Prevention Board, housed at the Division of Building Safety. The Damage Prevention Board will be made up of stakeholders with an interest in safe excavation practices and funded by underground facility owners. The legislation eliminates an ineffective method of compliance based on court actions and replaces it by providing the Damage Prevention Board with the administrative authority to enforce the provisions of Idaho's Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act. The legislation also calls for the reporting, collection and analysis of damage data to guide the board's educational efforts with the general public and the excavator community.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund or to the Division of Building Safety as all costs of administration of the board created by this legislation will be paid by affected underground facility owners.

#### **Contact:**

Ron Law, Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Coalition  
(208) 392-3021  
Neil Colwell, Avista Corporation  
(208) 343-3821